CANADIAN Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

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Asks Removal Of Federal Tax

Selznick Leaves United Artists

David O. Selznick has severed his distribution connection with United Artists and has set up his own company, Selznick Releasing Organization, of which Neil Agnew is president and Milton Kusell general sales manager for the domestic field. Distri-

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Variety Gifts To Worthy Causes

A gift of $1,000 to furnish two rooms at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Incurables was made public at the recent Variety meeting by Morris Stein, chairman of the heart committee. Another $1,000 was donated by Tent No. 28, Toronto, for Christ-

(Continued on Page 2)

Alberta Exhibitors Ass'n Opposes 20 p.c. Impost

Removal of the 20 per cent federal amusement tax and adjustment of the Provincial amusement tax was asked by the Alberta Theatres Association at the recent annual meeting of that body in Calgary. H. G. Stevenson, Lacombe, was appointed chairman of a committee comprised of himself and E. C. Ethridge and Arnold Entwisle, Edmonton, to study the matter and continue the fight. The committee will endeavor to have the Provincial tax revised and to interest other Canadian associations in opposing the federal tax.

Proposed revision of Clause 18 was thoroughly discussed and

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Allen Handles Foto-Nite

I. H. Allen has been appointed general manager for Foto-Nite and will handle that job in conjunction with Astral Films, which he heads.

Allen announces increased activity on both fronts, with an active campaign planned for Foto-Nite.

He recently returned from New York, where he examined product with possibilities for Canadian distribution.

Latest addition to the staff of Astral is Jerry Ostrow, recently of Pittsburgh, who served in the US Navy and has now settled in Toronto.

Campaign Prizes Offered By WB

The Dominion district office of Warner Bros. Pictures has announced an exclusively Canadian campaign contest on "The Verdict" (Sydney Greenstreet, Peter Lorre, Joan Lorring), with $200 in prizes offered for the five best exhibitor selling-jobs on

(Continued on Page 3)

Ed Shields Elected

Ed Shields was elected recently to the post of Business Agent by-members of Local B. 73, Film Exchange Workers Union, IATSE.

Conny Smythe and Chief Barker

Scene at the recent meeting of Tent No. 28, Toronto Variety Club, with Chief Barker John J. Fitzgibbons getting a hearty laugh out of Barker Conny Smythe, famed leader of the famed Toronto Maple Leafs, at the mike.

New Theatres Open Or Being Erected

Canadian theatre building is still maintaining its active pace, with several new houses open, construction begun on others and quite a number in various stages of pre-building preparation.

The Broadway Theatre was recently opened in Nutana, Saskatoon suburb, by a company of which I. F. Shacker, mayor of Hanna, Alberta, is president. Seating 700, the theatre is equipped with a "crying room" for children, to which mothers may come to take care of children and still watch the show through special glasses. Resident manager is S. W.

(Continued on Page 2)

British Star Signed

Paramount has signed Phyllis Calvert, British star, to a long-term contract.

D'Hondt, Delhi, Hurt In Auto Accident

Robert D'Hondt, owner of the Imperial Theatre in Delhi, Ontario, was severely injured when the car in which he was driving alone ran off the highway into the ditch three miles west of Simcoe. He suffered a possible fractured skull, multiple lacerations to the face and severe shock. Attendants at the Norfolk General Hospital where he was taken described his condition as "serious."

More than $100 damage was caused to the car.

In 'High Conquest'

Anna Lee has been cast in Monogram's "High Conquest."

Eve Arden Assigned

Eve Arden has been assigned to "The Unsuspected" at Warn-

★ *A Happy New Year* ★

Asks Removal Of Federal Impost

(Continued from Page 1)

the meeting went on record approving action of the executive committee in opposing it. The association decided to continue its opposition until successful and empowered the executive committee to do whatever necessary in that regard.

Other matters discussed were the appointment of an advisory board to consult with and advise the Provincial government with respect to any proposed changes to the amusement act, with Matt Park and Walter P. Wilson appointed to represent the association on the board; training of apprentices, removal of price controls, appointment of a new Provincial censor, 16 mm. exhibition and membership. These matters arose out of the secretary's report.

The officers for the new term are Alex Entwisle, Edmonton, honorary president; Matt Park, Wetaskiwin, president; Walter P. Wilson, Edmonton, and Doug Miller, Tabor, vice-presidents; and Roy Chown, Calgary, secretary-treasurer.

The directors are H. G. Stevenson, Lacombe; K. M. Leach, Calgary; M. R. Beatty, Red Deer; J. J. Lieberman, Edmonton; W. H. B. Sharp, Calgary; D. C. Fox, Pincher Creek; P. D. Egan, Calgary; W. Ramsay, Canmore; Arnold Entwisle, Edmonton; and D. A. Boyle, Macleod.

Taplinger Will Head Enterprise Publicity

Robert S. Taplinger has been named vice-president in charge of publicity and advertising for Enterprise Pictures, according to an announcement by Charles Einfeld, president.

The new appointment will reunite the successful team that for four years headed the Warners' publicity department. Previous to his joining Einfeld at the Burbank studio, Taplinger organized his own public relations office after seven years with CBS as head of publicity and special events. At the time of entering the navy he was executive assistant to Harry Cohn at Columbia.

New Theatres Open Or Being Erected

(Continued from Page 1)

Webber, formerly of San Francisco, a shareholder in the company.

Hanna owns three theatres in Edmonton at present under lease to Odeon, a theatre in Hanna and one in Kindersley, Saskatchewan.

The first theatre to open in Montreal since the war is the Ahuntsic, in the suburb of that name. Len Hatton is the owner.

Completely remodelled into a modern theatre by Twentieth Century Theatres, the Granada, which opened as the King George 31 years ago in St. Catharines, Ontario, is now the Park and remains under the management of the veteran Leo Coyle.

Theatre Holding Corporation has begun construction of a theatre building, Norton and Yonge Streets, Willowdale, a Toronto suburb. H. G. Duerr, Toronto, is the architect and the builder is Principal Investments, Limited. There will be parking room for 300 cars. Work on the dual auditorium of the Hollywood, Toronto, which will add 750 seats, is proceeding extremely well, according to Raymond Allen of Theatre Holding, and if the weather is favorable it will be ready in May.

Construction is under way on a $100,000 drive-in theatre in London, Ontario, for Skyway Drive-in Theatres. To accomodate 1,200 cars on a 25-acre lot, it will open next April.

In work is a $40,000 theatre building for R. F. Castle in Saanich, BC, and one in New Ross, NS, for Philip Barkhouse. In Montreal excavation is on for the $50,000 theatre of J. J. Ruffiange on St. James Street. In London, Ontario, Odeon has started work on its $250,000 theatre building.

New theatres have been announced or indicated for several new locations. Plans are being drawn for a 500-seat house in Hartland, NB, by Allward and Gillies, Saint John, for B & L Theatres of that city. H. Falk of Cine-Monde Canadian Corporation, with which A. J. Mason is associated, has applied for a permit to build in Westmount, Montreal suburb. Foto-Nite has requested renewal of its permit to build in Campbellford, Ontario, and there is interest in a theatre for Cobden, Ontario.

Odeon, Peterborough, Ontario, will be erected by Harry Davidson, Toronto, at an estimated cost of $100,000. Will seat 1,000.

Famous Players 1,000-seat theatre on Bloor, near Jane, Toronto, $100,000 project, is awaiting tenders.

DeLuxe Theatres' $40,000 Ottawa 300-seat house awaiting tenders.

Odeon Theatres 1,400-seat north Yonge Street, Toronto house, a $200,000 project, awaiting tenders.

Work will start shortly on owner-contractor J. E. Mongrain's Montreal theatre on 10th Avenue.

Work will start in the spring on Roger Lalonde's Victoriaville, Quebec, 850-seat house, a $100,000 project.

Lilli Palmer Signed

United States Pictures has signed Lilli Palmer to a new term contract.

Showmen Snowmen In North Bay Frolic

Chief Snowman in charge of the beard-growing contest held in connection with the second Annual North Bay Snow Frolic is Lorne Moore, manager of the Melrose Theatre, who is raising a luxurious crop of whiskers himself as a contestant. Termed the "Whiskerino Contest" the stunt offers valuable prizes for those who can grow the best beard between November 1st and the Frolic date, January 29th.

Barred from the contest are Jack Nelson of the Capitol and Doug Patterson of the Royal, the former because he entered last year's contest but shaved his real he-man beard off two days before the closing date and the latter because, as the committee ruled, it was obvious that anyone who couldn't grow any hair on their head couldn't be expected to grow any on his face. No doubt Patterson, who this year is head of the Street Decoration Committee, screamed "Barefaced robbery!" at the contest judges. Nelson is also actively engaged in boosting this year's Frolic.

Film Weekly

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Variety Gifts To Worthy Causes

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mas gifts to recipients suggested by social welfare officials. The hospital rooms will have a Variety plaque on a wall in each. Other worthy causes were discussed by the membership, particularly a 16 mm. mobile exhibition unit.

The meeting was informed that Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Hanson had offered 60 acres of land adjoining their fruit farm in Cooksville, Ontario, for the establishment of a recreational centre for boys and acceptance was delayed until a study of the operation of the Dallas' tent's ranch for boys could be made.

Barker Peter Campbell of the Toronto Maple Leafs baseball team told the barkers that he had arranged a game with Baltimore during the coming season in aid of Variety causes.

Those initiated were Conny Smythe, a friend of John Harris, founder of Variety; Michael Peskin, Eric Wilde, E. A. Taggart Bill White, Harrison C. Joyce, Murray Little, Jack Harper, James C.. Morton, Claude Alexander, George Beeston, Ted Sterling and Jules Wolfe.

Lou Rosenfeld and the Allens have offered the recreation room of Columbia's new building on Carlton Street for future meetings and these will be held there.

A program of entertainment arranged by Douglas Rosen, Larry Graburn and David Griesdorf followed the dinner.

'Six Gun Serenade'

"Six Gun Serenade" is the new title of Monogram's current western starring Jimmy Wakely with Lee "Lasses" White, previously known as "Drifting Through." Ford Beebe directed for producer Barney Sarecky.

Wainwright To Make Films In Canada

Richard Wainwright Productions, Limited, which ceased to operate at the beginning of the war, will again go into production with three or four films a year, one or even two of which will be made in Canada, according to a statement by Richard Wainwright, head of the firm, on his return to England from a trip across the Atlantic. Wainwright Productions is a British company.

Although plans are still in the preliminary stage, Wainwright's visit to Hollywood was understood to be for the purpose of signing several stars to appear in the proposed pictures. At present a production unit is being formed.

Campaign Prizes Offered By WB

(Continued from Page 1)

this film, states Haskell Masters, general manager. The awards will be as follows:

$100 — First Prize
50 — Second "
25 — Third "
15 — Fourth "
10 — Fifth "

The board of judges will consist of the following: James R. Nairn, advertising director, Famous Players Canadian Corp. Ltd.; Larry M. Graburn, advertising director, Odeon Theatres of Canada, Ltd.; Hye Bossin, managing editor of the Canadian Film Weekly; Ray Lewis and J. Smith, respectively editor and publisher and managing editor of the Canadian Moving Picture Digest; N. Roy Perry, president of the Advertising and Sales Club of Toronto, business manager of Maclean's magazine and Chatelaine and a director of Maclean-Hunter Pub. Co. Ltd.; and Glenn Ireton, director of public relations, Warner Bros. Pictures Dist. Co. Ltd.

The contest will be open to all exhibitors whose playdates of "The Verdict" start not later than Monday, March 31, 1947. The campaigns must be sent to Glenn Ireton of Warners at 70 Carlton St., Toronto, to be received at that point not later than April 15th.

A comprehensive presentation of the campaign will be appreciated by the judges but the campaign itself is what will count. The judges will take into consideration the situation and endeavor in every way to reach just decisions.

Eight Studios Battle For Kilroy Title

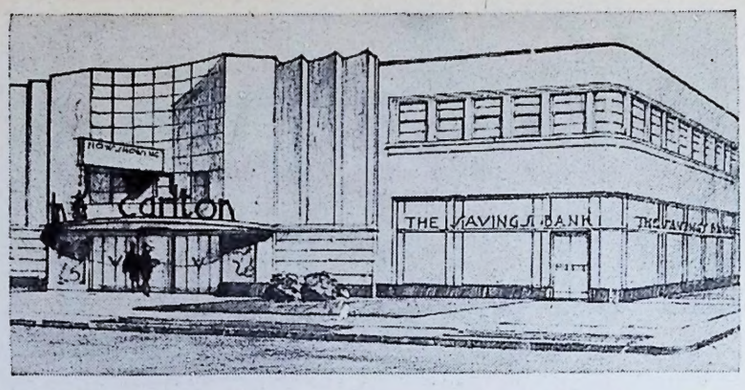
Eight Hollywood companies are anxious to corner the market on the title "Kilroy Was Here," made famous by the illusive traveller.

According to the title registration bureau of the Johnston Office, first call goes to Arthur Kelly, United Artists independent producer, with Paramount, RKO and three other major companies next in line.

With his usual disregard of the Johnston Office, Bob Savini of Astor Pictures Corporation, has signed for world-wide distribution on a series of six films, called the Kilroy Series. Titles all feature the name Kilroy and are to be spaced two months apart, with the first, "Kilroy Was Here," to be released about the middle of February.

The team of Dick Hayland and Sid Luft, as well as Jack Boland, are said to be set to go on a Kilroy yarn.

Projected Montreal House



This $250,000 theatre building will be erected at the corner of Cote des Neiges Road and Van Horne Avenue, Montreal, for United Amusements by Louis Donclo, Incorporated from plans drawn by Luke, Little and Mace, Montreal.

Hicks Prexy Of Calgary CPP

Lawrence Hicks was elected president of the Calgary division of the Canadian Picture Pioneers at the annual meeting recently in Calgary. The vice-presidents are D. A. Boyle and R. J. Doddridge; with Vernon Dixon secretary and K. M. Leach business manager. The honorary president is Walter P. Wilson.

On the executive board E. C. Ethridge, P. D. Eagan and W. Ramsay represent the theatres; D. Henderson, G. P. Barber and B. Giroux the projectionists; and V. M. Skorey, W. O. Kelly and J. H. Reid the exchanges.

Thirty-five of the 46 members were present and new members added were W. H. B. Sharp, H. Boyse, G. P. Barber, Arthur Anderson and E. C. Ethridge.

Walter Wilson, retiring president, reviewed activities of the past year and Vernon Dixon read the secretary's report. Ed. Zorn of the Winnipeg branch spoke of its activities and success in raising funds.

A raffle for nylons at the banquet netted $100 for the Pioneers Benevolent Fund.

MAC HERSHMAN

Recently joined the Toronto staff of Peerless Films, Limited, as a salesman.

Demarest Option

Paramount has taken up its option on William Demarest, character actor who has had one of the most varied careers in show business.

Preston Foster Cast

Preston Foster will have the male lead in Columbia's "King of the Wild Horses."

© Eagle-Lion Films of Canada, Ltd.

"You're using too many flashlight bulbs! I admit they want to see the picture, but do you have to show them the theatre, too? It's a problem!"

The Quizzical Quizmasters

The Yuletide Goes Out . . .

THE VARIETY TENT meeting provided its usual evening of friendship and fun, with the Kings for a Night, Barkers Griesdorf, Graburn and Rosen, presenting varied forms of entertainment. A worthwhile innovation was the holding of the entertainment after the business meeting and dinner, which gave the funsters a chance to work unhindered by the clatter of dishes and the listeners a better chance to enjoy them.

Mischa Auer, at the Royal in "The Temporary Mrs. Smith," came along before curtain time, told a few fast and funny gags and headed back to face the customers. Then Barker Ed Fitkin, the Maple Leaf Gardens' praise agent, interviewed Ted Morris and Earl Selkirk, coach and manager respectively of the champion Argo football club. Later he brought Wild Bill Ezinicki and Howie Meeker, Maple Leaf hockey stars, to the mike.

Some of the charming staff of Arthur Murray's recently-opened Toronto dancing school, 73rd unit of the enterprising hopera impresario who believes that Judy O'Grady and the Colonel's Lady are sisters under the shin, demonstrated various types of ballroom dancing, from the cloying clinch to the rough-and-ready rassle.

Then Charlie Mavety, John Fitzgibbons, Oscar Hanson and Nat Taylor were invited by pressure to the platform to dance with the young ladies in a contest emceed by Larry Graburn.

The headline act was a quiz contest between the all-stars and the distributors, with (it seemed) more participants than listeners. Doug Rosen, the quizmaster, with a fine feeling for the fellow who wasn't expected to know so much, aimed the tough questions at Earl Lawson and others such. The Hon. J. Earl flopped, as did the others, for the questions would stump ye eds to the Encyc Brit with their volumes in front of them.

Of course, every question which Lawson failed to answer, including those dealing with US Supreme Court decisions and quotations from Shakespeare, were answered easily by Bob Myers, who studied for the occasion by reading the Racing Form with his customary diligence.

Every failure to answer correctly by a luminary was commented on by Rosen, his remarks, as usual, being as subtle as a shillelagh and drawing applausive laughter from the sadists in the audience.

It was mucho funo and the Kings for a Night proved their right to the hard silken crowns.

An unexpected and interesting talk came from Mike Peskin, still wearing the USA Marine uniform, who was present at Pearl Harbor on that infamous and fateful day when the Japs struck. Mike told plenty about it and promised more at a later meeting.

Alberta Men's Banquet

Photo of the joint banquet of the Calgary division of the Canadian Picture Pioneers and the Alberta Theatres Association at the Pallister Hotel, Calgary.

IF YOU ARE AN HABITUE of screening rooms you will recognize the truth of the following passages in "Dream Street," an excellent novel by Robert Sylvester issued by The Dial Press, New York:

"The sound of the screen cut off, the images flicked out, and the screen flashed suddenly white as the room lights came on. Jake got up quickly and started for the door. People stared at him in surprise.

"They were surprised because he was ignoring protocol. It wasn't for him, an unimportant tenant of un unimportant preview chair, to walk out of the projection room before his superiors. You walked out the same way you walked in—according to rank and grade. Jake was making them uneasy. He was dangerous. An ill-bred fellow like Jake had no business walking out as if nobody else mattered. He was upsetting the entire social structure."

* * *

OBSERVANDA: Ron McLelland of the Capitol has been ill for some time and Dick Freeman of the Pix just got over a spell of sickness . . . Lorne Moore of the Melrose, North Bay, and chairman of the Whiskerino contest for the city's annual Snow Frolic, was in town and took beard and all to see friend Hughie Bartlett work with the Happy Gang . . . Joe Palansky's farewell plea before going home for the holidays to visit his family was for some help in finding a place to live in Toronto for them . . . At the Variety meeting Jack Chisholm renewed acquaintanceship with Mischa Auer and Hy Goldin gabbed with another long-time-no-see friend, Frank Badgely, who headed the government pre-Grierson film setup . . . Roses of Yesterday—5c. coffee and 10c. pie.

* * *

AT THE PREMIER-COLUMBIA PARTY I was kidding Ed Goldsmith, who used to book 35 mm., about booking 16 mm., suggesting next came 8 mm. and then slides. Harrison Patte said it was no joke, for he used to book slides in the old days of illustrated songs . . . Dominion Productions press-previewed "Bush Pilot" at Queensway recently and the hearsay reports are pleasing . . . Gaumont Kalee, I hear, is remodelling that large building near Dundonald and Yonge as its future headquarters . . . Things were as gay as ever in the film community during the festive period, although Odeon and Famous gave up the annual come-one, come-all parties in favor of staff doings . . . I couldn't get to the Famous Players Managers Association party at the Runnymede because of a cold but I hear Maurice Doyle and his boys and girls staged a grand time with Len Bishop, the new prexy, sparkling at the mike.

* * *

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION and Advancement of Masculine Rights, headed by Joseph Garbarino, fellow bachelor, has issued the following proclamation: "Hear ye, all and singular! Man has caused most of the excitement on earth beginning with Adam, yet as the New Year enters he is forgotten. Countless generations have celebrated New Year's Eve, an ancient injustice. Hereafter all members will celebrate New Year's Adam instead! Govern yourself accordingly."

* * *

A HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of you, especially those who had the hardihood to riffle through the piffle here every week. Somehow two good thoughts at this time of year are peering at me from my pad and demanding to be passed on to you. The first: "Where money talks it often drowns out the voice of conscience," which I first saw in the pages of the Daily Commercial News and Recorder. The second: "I'd rather weed out one such unmanly prejudice from the hearts of my countrymen than add another Indies to the Empire," was spoken by a character in a play by the 18th Century writer, Richard Cumberland.

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Now that showmen once more can book

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starring JAMES STEWART

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LIONEL BARRYMORE • THOMAS MITCHELL • HENRY TRAVERS • Directed by FRANK CAPRA

BEULAH BONDI • WARD BOND • FRANK FAYLEN • GLORIA GRAHAME

Wonderful love
Jimmy and Donna going steady...
in the picture that tops all the fun of "It Happened
One Night"; all the heart-warming joy of "Mr.
Deeds Goes To Town"; all the happiness of
"You Can't Take It With You"
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Award triumphs!
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REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

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The Show-Off

with Red Skelton, Marilyn Maxwell

MGM 84 Mins.

THIRD FILM VERSION OF FAMED COMEDY PROVIDES AMPLE OUTLET FOR RED SKELTON'S ZANY TALENTS.

Until another more suitable opus comes along for Red Skelton's zany talents, "The Show-Off" will keep him in the public eye and mind. It is not so old and hoary that a good thing cannot come of it at this date. It is a sound piece of property. Many times imitated, the story is composed of elements that have been hitting the bull's eye of audience satisfaction for so long that it is no longer necessary to aim them.

A quarter of a century ago it was a notable stage play. Twice before it was filmed. This third version provides exercise for Skelton and he plays it for all it is worth. Miss Maxwell is easy to look at, fits the bill.

In making an oldie there is always something new thrown into the script. This time it is a burlesque of radio questionnaire programs where participants are paid off—double or nothing. Skelton, endeavoring to raise money to keep the installment collectors happy, gets himself on a toothpaste program. It's the "Pepsi-Dent" show. Skelton uses "Dr. Webson's" powder, has used it for years, plans no change. All of which is going out over the air, between questions. This is the high howl of the show.

Otherwise it is the biography and early marital life of "Aubrey Piper," backslapper, talkative reciter of poetry, whose good intentions come to grief until the very end, when they pay off.

Comedy lines are handled in the veteran manner associated with Marjorie Main, Eddie "Rochester" Anderson, George Cleveland, Virginia O'Brien. It's a good show for the family trade.

CAST: Red Skelton, Marilyn Maxwell, Marjorie Main, Virginia O'Brien, Eddie "Rochester" Anderson, George Cleveland, Leon Ames, Marshall Thompson, Jacqueline White, Wilson Wood, Lila Leeds, Emory Parnell.

CREDITS: Producer, Albert Lewis; Director, Harry Beaumont; Screenplay by George Wells, from the play by George Kelly; Cameraman, Robert Planck.

DIRECTION, Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

Peggy Cummins' Next

Peggy Cummins will have the starring role in Fox' "Moss Rose."

Plainsman And the Lady

with William Elliott, Vera Ralston

Republic 87 Mins.

GOOD HISTORICAL WESTERN SHOW ABOUT THE PONY EXPRESS; FINE PRODUCTION VALUES, INTERESTING PLOT.

There's a wealth of contributing detail in this film. It is colorful, varied and has plenty in the action department. The producer has seen fit to include a fairly large segment of intrigue. Said intrigue involves the inaugurating of the pony express to carry the mails transcontinentally.

For the action fans there's plenty of brawling and shooting. For the audience that likes its romance in the he-man manner, there's a good lineup of situations.

William Elliott owns a saloon-gambling joint in St. Joseph, Mo. at the outset. He sells to join the new pony express enterprise. There is opposition to the plan by Joseph Schildkraut and Gail Patrick, wife of one of the promoters who's double-timing with Schildkraut. The scene switches to Washington where the scheme is defeated. Meanwhile Elliott cements his romance with Vera Ralston and horses around for comic effect with Andy Clyde.

Don Barry, a killer, is provoked by Schildkraut into making attempts on Elliott's life but they never quite come off. Meanwhile the groundwork and initial surveys for the line to Sacramento are set.

Miss Patrick's unfaithfulness causes the death of her husband, Reinhold Schunzel. Miss Patrick takes over his bank and attempts to freeze out the express line. But Elliott makes his stand and she has to leave town with Schildkraut. The line begins operation. From either end riders leave. Elliott and Clyde are out reconnoitering and come upon evidence of dirty work. They break up a Schildkraut-inspired raid with a troop of Indians who are out to avenge the killing of one of their number. The express and mail get through. There's rejoicing and Elliott and Miss Ralston hit it off for the romantic trail.

CAST: William Elliott, Vera Ralston, Gail Patrick, Joseph Schildkraut, Andy Clyde, Don Barry, Raymond Walburn, Russell Hicks, Paul Hurst, Charles Judels.

CREDITS: Producer and Director, Joseph Kane; Screenplay by Richard Wormser; Cameraman, Reggie Lanning.

DIRECTION, Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Fine.

My Darling Clementine

with Henry Fonda, Linda Darnell, Victor Mature

20th-Fox 97 Mins.

OUTSTANDING SUPER-WESTERN; SHOULD PROVE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE NATION'S BOXOFFICE.

If "My Darling Clementine" does not prove to be the very pinnacle of western production and direction it may be only because the next one to surpass it will be from the directorial talents of John Ford.

Ford has taken every trick in the book, polished, sharpened, honed and curried them. The resultant tale of the Earp Brothers is something erudite critics will dissect for finer nuances of cinematic criticism. And those hyper-critics, the western fans, whose diet has been the ham and eggs of the industry, will be impressed by its near-zenith development.

Photographically "Clementine" impresses as just about the best black and white treatment from Hollywood this year and will stand to be a keen contender for camera honors.

The story has a historical background being the interpretation of Wyatt Earp, played by Fonda, and his brothers, Tim Holt, Ward Bond, who come to Tombstone and pacify the cattletown while they seek the murderers of another brother, Don Garner. Fonda takes the marshal's job. The town quiets under his ministrations. Victor Mature, a consumptive renegade doctor from the East, runs Tombstone and has a reputation as a killer. But at first sight he and Fonda hit it off, become friends. Miss Darnell is Mature's mistress. Cathy Downs comes from the East to rehabilitate Mature. But he thinks different.

In due time Miss Darnell furnishes the clues for the real culprits. She dies. Holt is killed. Next morning the Walter Brennan family is wiped out, Mature dies. There's a great deal more to it than that but space limits detailed telling.

CAST: Henry Fonda, Linda Darnell, Victor Mature, Walter Brennan, Tim Holt, Ward Bond, Cathy Downs, Alan Mowbray, John Ireland, Roy Roberts, Jane Darwell, Grant Withers.

CREDITS: Producer, Samuel G. Engel; Director, John Ford; Screenplay by Samuel G. Engel, Winston Miller; Based on a story by Sam Hellman from a book by Stuart N. Lake; Cameraman, Joe MacDonald.

DIRECTION, Aces. PHOTOGRAPHY, Superb.

Cross My Heart

with Betty Hutton, Sonny Tufts

Paramount 83 Mins.

HILARIOUS PARODY OF THE MURDER-COURTROOM DRAMA; SNAPPILY PACED, SMARTLY HANDLED; HAS CLICK POTENTIALITIES.

Having served as basic plot for countless tear-jerking dramas and last-minute rescues from the "hot seat," the murder-courtroom melodrama has finally been given the hypo and it evolves here as a gagstrewn farce that is never serious more than two minutes and that's just because it is necessary to supply brickwork for the plot.

Betty Hutton has a field day romancing with Sonny Tufts, her lawyer boy-friend, singing a couple of effective numbers in her loud comedy style and being the "Peggy Harper" around whom all the didoes revolve. It's Miss Hutton's picture all the way with slight bows to Michael Chekhov as a crazy Shakesperian actor.

Miss Hutton is a hoofer. Tufts, a struggling lawyer. In order to get a good setup for Tufts she tries to play around with Howard Freeman, a wolf of the first water. She runs into Chekhov at Freeman's place. Chekhov pretends to leave. Freeman chases Miss Hutton all over the place with nefarious designs. Next thing Freeman is murdered and Miss Hutton arrested when she returns to pick up her hat and purse.

She sees a golden opportunity for Tufts and prepares to go on trial for the murder. The trial proves a storm session of laughter with all sorts of novelty and slick satiric touches thrown into the court record. She's not guilty. Tufts learns she did it all for him, perjuring herself so he could gain notoriety. He cools. Meanwhile she gets a nite spot engagement. An attack of conscience causes her to reveal the truth, which is quite innocent and in so doing the real murderer is taken—to the nuthouse—for an extended engagement of "Othello." It all stems, it seems, from Miss Hutton's inability to tell the truth.

CAST: Betty Hutton, Sonny Tufts, Rhys Williams, Alan Bridge, Howard Freeman, Lewis L. Russell, Michael Chekhov, Iris Adrian.

CREDITS: Producer, Harry Tugend; Director, John Berry; Based on a play by Louis Verneuil and Georges Barr; Cameramen, Charles Land and Stuart Thompson.

DIRECTION, Very Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Fine.

Shackleford of Lethbridge

By GEORGE A. YACKULIC
In Western Business and Industry

A quarter century ago Alfred William Shackleford landed in Lethbridge, a youngster with $50 in his pocket. In the 25 years intervening he has played an important part in the development of motion picture theatres in the area, and is now in his third consecutive term as mayor of Lethbridge.

TWENTY-FIVE years ago Alfred William Shackleford dared come to Lethbridge to manage what he now jokingly recalls as "a horse opera."

By the time he had looked over the city he was convinced that all other theatres in the community were better than the one he was to operate, and that his premises were better suited for a shooting gallery.

And by the time the community's "smarties" had sized up the 21-year-old youngster and his limited theatre experience, they snickered and gave him six months to stay in Lethbridge before he would be high-tailing it back to his parents in Calgary.

No one in the city dreamed that some day this youngster would be a successful businessman operating the two best theatres in Lethbridge, that he would be chosen to lead various community enterprises time and again, and that he would also become their mayor.

The son of a steam-fitter and engineer, Lethbridge's mayor was born in Essex, England, on September 3, 1899, and came to Calgary with his parents in the spring of 1909. While completing public school and then during his attendance at college, young Shackleford worked as an usher at the old Regent Theatre in Calgary, located at the time where the present Hudson Bay Company block now stands.

During those years, 1912-14, his ushering paid him $5 a week for working evenings and Saturdays during the school terms, and $10 a week for full time during annual summer vacations. He added to his earnings by being a carrier boy for the old Calgary News-Telegram and by selling "Bob" Edwards' famous Calgary Eye-Opener on the days that spicy paper was published.

He had his heart set on becoming an architect and, working toward that goal, studied applied mathematics and drafting at the Provincial Institute of Technology and Art in Calgary. Near the end of 1915 the principal of the school told the lanky youngster of an opening for a rodman with the engineering department of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and for the next six months the student worked between Calgary and Field, B.C., and between Calgary and Red Deer, Alta., providing the power for his transportation by operating a hand-car.

From that job the would-be architect went to work in Calgary for P. Burns and Company as a draftsman.

WHEN the First Great War ended, so did the company's building programme. In the staff reduction which accompanied the halt in building plans, young Shackleford was added to the ranks of the unemployed.

Jobs were scarce in Calgary, but the youth obtained employment selling wallpaper for the Linton Bookstore, and for a year in that position he was "bothered by the call of the theatre."

Learning of an opening in a film exchange in the former Princess Theatre building in his home city, the wallpaper salesman quit his job and became a shipper of films. He was subsequently promoted to the position of booker and office manager and was working in that capacity late in 1920 when a tempting offer came his way.

Raymond Appleton, a liquor inspector for the Alberta provincial police, and a friend had purchased the lease on the failing King's Theatre in Lethbridge, and they offered Shackleford $50 a week to manage the business for them.

With that kind of salary open to him the youngster accepted the offer enthusiastically and in the following January he came to Lethbridge to assume his new position. What he saw when he looked at the premises which were being presented as a theatre made him feel "sick, very sick." A building 125 feet long but only 22 feet wide, the King's was the smallest theatre in the city. In the words of Mayor Shackleford "it was just a dump that took a far back seat to every other theatre in Lethbridge."

The youngster felt even sicker when he heard that some of his competitors were publicly declaring that "this upstart won't last here six months."

Studying the methods employed by some of his competitors, the new manager decided that he was not going to fall in line with them and use super-duper superlatives to bamboozle the public. He surveyed the situation, decided "to tell the truth about pictures," and hooked his star to the leading actors of the wild west pictures.

Shackleford was a jack-of-all-trades in his theatre, his staff consisting of one operator, a doorman, one pianist and only sometimes an usher.

In March 1922 Shackleford was still in Lethbridge, doing reasonably well, and so that month he married Miss Ada Crofts of Calgary. A year later, Mark Rogers, Lethbridge's reputed millionaire, purchased the lease on the King's Theatre and on the old Colonial, then on the site now occupied by the Capitol.

For a few months Shackleford managed both the King's and the Colonial, but in July, 1924, Rogers turned over the managerships to his brother-in-law, Len Schultz, and Shackleford went to Calgary to another film exchange, this time on the road to sell films.

SIX months later he was back in Lethbridge, having accepted an offer from Rogers to manage the natural ice arena with the stipulation that he would be given the opportunity to re-enter the theatre business.

The opportunity came in the summer of 1925, when Rogers sold Shackleford the lease on "Old Faithful"—the King's Theatre. Shackleford had little money but a lot of ambition and willingness to work hard. Also, he had established his credit and reliability.

So he had little difficulty in lining up James B. DeGuerre, prominent Lethbridge business man with money to invest, as his silent partner. Earlier, in 1922, DeGuerre had struck up a partnership with Shackleford when he was looking for someone to operate a dancing pavilion at Henderson Park, Lethbridge's playground and bathing beach. The two formed the Lethbridge Amusement Company, Ltd., capitalized at $20,000.

"I did not put up a single cent, as 'D' financed it," explains Mayor Shackleford, who managed the pavilion until 1938 when he purchased the business, obtaining it "for an attractive price, as 'D' wanted to compensate me for my work there." In 1941 Shackleford sold the pavilion to Mrs. M. McLeod of Lethbridge.

With the lease of the King's Theatre on their hands in 1925, Shackleford and DeGuerre laid plans for the elaborate opening of the theatre on July 1 and 2.

The whole city was talking about the theatre after it had opened, but not in terms always favorable.

On the first day the receipts grossed the tiny sum of $13.25. The next day they jumped to $51.60.

Operating on money that he had borrowed in small sums from numerous people to purchase his interest in the theatre, Shackleford was nearly heartbroken. But once more he turned to the old

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Selznick Leaves United Artists

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bution will be handled through an organization not in the motion picture field. It is not known how this affects Canada or whether such means of distribution extend to Canada.

Selznick, through Vanguard Films, retains his one-third of UA stock.

The break, not unexpected, came several weeks ago and it is reported to have originated through differences with Mary Pickford.

Following "Duel in the Sun" the new organization will release "The Paradine Case," reissue "Intermezzo," offer "Little Women," "Portrait of Jenny" and "Sands of Time."

Production schedule will be continuous and from seven to ten pictures will be made during the first year.

"The Paradine Case" in which Gregory Peck, Charles Laughton, Charles Coburn and Ethel Barrymore are among those who will appear, has a $3,250,000 budget.

"Little Women," to be shot in Technicolor, will have Lionel Barrymore, Charles Coburn, Diana Lynn and Bambi Lynn, while "Portrait of Jenny," costarring Jennifer Jones and Joseph Cotten, will be produced by David Hemstead and directed by William Dieterle. Selznick has scheduled the pic to start shooting February 1st.

"Sands of Time" will be produced by Dore Schary and directed by Robert Stevenson with Cary Grant and Dorothy McGuire costarring.

Selznick will follow these films with "Joan of Arc" and "What Every Young Bride Should Know." Late spring shooting for the former and early summer shooting for the latter is planned. Jennifer Jones will star as the Maid of Orleans, while in "Young Bride" Selznick will have Shirley Temple and Guy Madison.

It is said that United Artists may sue Selznick for breach of contract.

'Desert Fury' Score Written By Rozsa

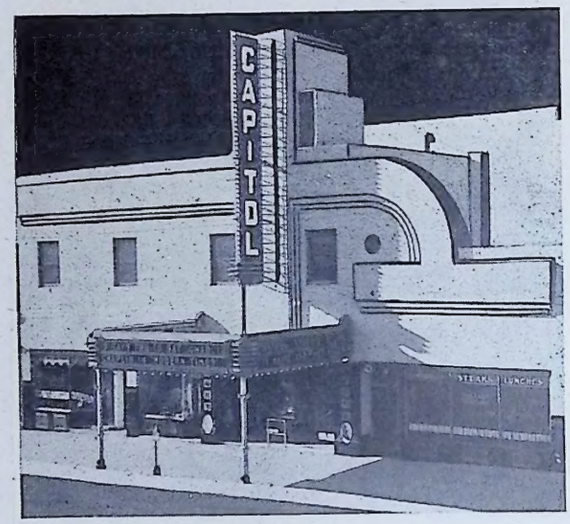
Dr. Miklos Rozsa has started work on the score of Hal Wallis' "Desert Fury," Technicolor production for Paramount which has a cast headed by John Hodiak, Lizabeth Scott and Burt Lancaster. Dr. Rozsa, who has scored many outstanding films, won an Academy Award for his dramatic score of "Spellbound" and he also won high praise for his work on "The Lost Weekend."

Shackleford

(Continued from Page 10)

western stars. He drew fans away from the other movie houses by the droves.

Near the end of the year Rogers had died and his estate offered Shackleford the lease on the Colonial. The deal meant borrowing more money and again DeGuerre and Henry H. Grainger, now retired in Reno, Nevada, came to the rescue as silent partners—so silent that neither one ever suspected the other held an interest.



Lethbridge's Capitol Theatre, built in 1929 after Shackleford negotiated an amalgamation of his interests with Famous Players. It seats 926 people.

THE Colonial promptly assumed a new name—the Palace. The lease on the King's was surrendered and the theatre successively became a poolroom, barber shop and finally a cafe.

Grainger made his exit from the partnership in 1926 by selling his interests to Shackleford, and unknowingly to DeGuerre.

In the fall of 1928 Shackleford swung his biggest business deal, and a partnership was consummated with Famous Players. Out of the partnership came a new company — Lethbridge Theatres Limited—with DeGuerre as president and Shackleford as managing director. Both have continued to hold those positions in the company ever since.

The new company spent $125,000 on tearing down the Palace and replacing it with the present Capitol and its seating capacity for 926 patrons. At the same time the company introduced "talkies" to Lethbridge, opening the Capitol on October 9, 1929. That was the day of 67½-cent admissions, but night after night crowds packed the theatre—until the depression struck.

It was not long after "hard times" started that prices dropped to 25 cents for any seat in the Capitol at any time, but there were many evenings when the house was virtually deserted.

Lean years and poor business hit the other theatres in the city too, and in 1932 the Majestic Theatre was closed and later purchased by Majestic Theatres Ltd., a company formed by Lethbridge Theatres Ltd. and Famous Players. The Majestic never operated as a theatre again and being in an out-of-the-way location, eventually was sold to a dairy company.

The only other theatre in Lethbridge during the depression years, the Empress, was offered for sale by court order at a public auction and was purchased by Majestic Theatres Ltd. It was completely remodelled and became the Roxy Theatre, with 575 seats.

Both the Capitol and Roxy have been managed throughout their operation by Shackleford, who now confines his business activities to the two theatres, except for his keen interest in the securities market. He holds a substantial interest in each theatre.

Having provided the leadership in raising the standard of theatre entertainment in Lethbridge from the "horse opera" variety to a level on a par with any city in Canada, Mayor Shackleford is now playing an important role in plans which may revolutionize motion pictures in Lethbridge.

PLANS are now being considered by his Worship and the companies with which he is associated for future expansion in the southern Alberta city. A site has been purchased by Majestic Theatres Ltd., and announcement has been made that a $250,000 theatre and business block will be built. Plans are to use television pictures in the theatre as soon as they become available.

An extremely amiable fellow, Mayor Shackleford has never experienced any union troubles in his theatres, nor any serious difficulty with the numerous organizations with which he has been associated.

He made his debut into civic affairs in 1939, when he entered the aldermanic race and was elected by acclamation for a two-year term. He has been re-elected each time since, heading the polls in the last civic election.

When the council was faced with electing a new mayor at the beginning of 1944 (Lethbridge aldermen elect their mayor at the beginning of each year from their midst) the theatre manager was unanimously chosen to be their chairman. His choice was unanimous again in 1945 and now a third time for this year.

To encourage Mayor Shackleford to serve the community, Famous Players urged him to devote as much time as necessary to civic responsibilities without fear that his monetary returns from the theatre business would suffer. Each theatre was given a house manager under Mayor Shackleford. He is now first vice-president of the Union of Alberta Municipalities and regional representative for Alberta for the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities. He is also past district governor and a past president of the Gyro Club, and past master of a Masonic lodge.

Numerous community efforts have sought his services as chairman, including clothing drives, national salvage committees, community chest and committees for official receptions for Lethbridge army units returning from overseas service.

Irma Mildred Hague Married In USA

Irma Mildred Hague was recently married to Dr. Robert Russell Waddell at the Church of the Transfiguration in New York City. She is the daughter of the late Clair Hague who was for many years associated with the Canadian organization of Universal Pictures and who was one of the co-founders of the Canadian Picture Pioneers.

After their Florida honeymoon the couple are returning to Canada to take up residence in Aldershot, a suburb of Hamilton, Ontario.

Cast In MGM Film

Michael Kirby, young Canadian skating star who is under contract to MGM, has just completed the role of Mickey Rooney's elder brother in "Summer Holiday." He steps right into a featured part in "Green Dolphin Street," also an MGM picture.

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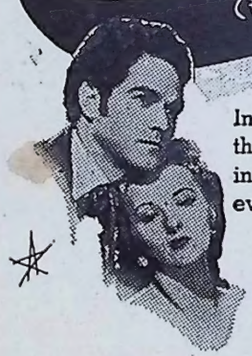

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Top Roles Filled For 'Swordsman'

Columbia set Edgar Buchanan and George Macready for two of the top roles in "The Swordsman," Technicolor saga of a bitter feud between Scottish clans, starring Larry Parks. Joseph H. Lewis is directing and Burt Kelly produces. At the same time the studio announced that Ray Collins, Robert Shayne and Ned Young had been signed for important supporting roles.

In the film Buchanan will be seen as Angus MacArden, fellow clansman and inseparable companion to the hero, Parks, while Macready will portray Captain Robert Glowan, malevolent enemy of Parks.

Maugham Praises 'Razor's Edge'

W. Somerset Maugham, after viewing the "The Razor's Edge" for the first time, cabled Darryl F. Zanuck, producer of the film, as follows:

"I have just seen 'The Razor's Edge' and I am enthusiastic. I think the acting is perfect and the production beyond all praise. I can only thank you again for all you have done for me."